



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,
MICHAEL KULSTAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**MEMBER OF SEX, MONEY & MURDER STREET GANG
SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS IN PRISON**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that KEVIN ALLER, a/k/a "Kevin Bethea," a/k/a "Beamo," was sentenced to a term of 50 years in prison. ALLER is one of the original members of the street gang Sex, Money & Murder ("SMM"), which operated in the Soundview section of the Bronx. In the mid-1990s, SMM became a part of the larger gang known as The United Blood Nation, or The Bloods.

On May 22, 2002, following a jury trial, ALLER was found guilty of conspiring to participate in a racketeering enterprise - namely, "Baby J's Crew" - conspiring to distribute narcotics, and conspiring to commit the murder of Joseph Coppedge in aid of racketeering activity.

The Indictment charging ALLER alleged, and the evidence introduced at trial showed, that in the early 1990s, McAllister began operating a significant drug trafficking operation based in

New York City and Springfield, Massachusetts. In the Fall of 1991, a violent dispute arose between McAllister's crew, which included members and associates of SMM, and members of a rival group of drug dealers. As proved at trial, in the fall of 1991, ALLER took part in that dispute by participating in a drive-by shooting, during which he and two other SMM members attempted to shoot and kill a man named Kiron Little and another person, who were standing in front of the Academy Gardens apartment complex located on Randall Avenue, in Soundview. A short time later, the evidence showed, on the evening of November 3, 1991, ALLER shot and killed Kiron Little when Little was outside a small grocery store in Soundview located at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Randall Avenue.

The evidence introduced at trial also showed that during the mid-1990s, McAllister began supplying ALLER with substantial quantities of crack and cocaine, which ALLER would sell in Kingston, New York and other locations. During that period, McAllister was robbed when leaving a party in lower Manhattan. ALLER and others then sought to identify the robbers, in order to retaliate. Through those efforts, they concluded that one of the people who robbed McAllister was an individual named Joseph Coppedge. The evidence showed that on the evening of December 29, 1996, ALLER and McAllister saw Coppedge standing outside the club Jimmy's Bronx Cafe. ALLER walked up to Coppedge and shot him in the head, killing him.

ALLER was convicted of RICO conspiracy, narcotics conspiracy, and conspiracy to murder Coppedge in aid of racketeering. The jury did not reach a verdict on one RICO count and it acquitted ALLER of two counts alleging that he murdered Coppedge in connection with other criminal activity.

In sentencing ALLER, the United States District Judge JOHN MARTIN imposed the maximum possible sentence under the law. At the sentencing, Judge MARTIN observed that "[t]here is no crime as serious as the taking of another human life."

This case was one in a series of federal prosecutions in this District charging members and associates of SMM. To date, approximately 53 individuals have been arrested and charged with federal crimes in connection with this investigation. The first of the large-scale SMM indictments was brought in 1998.

Mr. COMEY said this case and the other SMM cases are the result of a long-term, ongoing investigation by the United States Attorney's Office, the New York City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. COMEY praised the outstanding cooperative efforts of the New York City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ANDREW S. DEMBER and DANIEL A. BRAUN are in charge of the prosecution.